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Utah Marriage

What exactly is dating? Is it the perfect movie romance? Is it as scary as how Stephanie Meyer described it in *Twilight*? Or is it as ideal as shown on pictures? All of these are too perfect; too frighteningly out of this world. Too impractical to be considered "true love."

The definition for dating has changed over the years; the meaning varying from one individual to another. Google defines dating as, "A social or romantic appointment or engagement." However, young adults now replace traditional dating with "hanging out." It allows one an opportunity to get to know someone before asking them out on a date. Hanging out reduces the need to impress the other person and the feeling of anxiety on the first meet. It also makes it easier to move to the next step without it being stressful.

In the past, it was considered to be inappropriate for a young lady to ask a young man out on a date. Now, in the present time, women are encouraged to be the ones asking men out. The best way to ask someone out a date is in person or over a phone call. Emailing or texting someone, on the other hand, isn't the best method choice. It's common courtesy to not text or make phone calls during a date. Talk to them and ask questions; allowing the conversation to gradually progress.

While on a date, don't feel obligated to spend a lot of money. There are several activities where money won't be a concern and the date will still be plenty of fun. Dating should be a chance for your date to get to know you and vice versa. Don't spill your entire life history on the first date or talk about previous relationships. They don't want to know everything about you all at once.

Have fun and, most importantly, be yourself. You want them to know the real you. Accept each other's personalities the way they are and don't expect to change them. Over time, expect to both mature from past experiences. Make the time you spend together fun. Don't allow the conflicts you have to ruin those times. Really listen to them and hear each other out. Learn from the mistakes that are made and know how to forgive.